

11 October 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff

FROM:

Chief, Agency Archives and Records Center

SUBJECT: Guidelines for the Systematic Review for
Declassification of 30-Year-Old COMINT Records

REFERENCE: National Security Agency Letter N0981
dated 25 August 1977

1. With your approval, I will suggest the following language to the National Security Agency as working guidelines for exclusive use in the systematic review for declassification of the CIA's 30-year-old records:

- a. All documents bearing a COMINT codeword are exempt from declassification and/or downgrading.
- b. Any document containing, or suspected of containing, either COMINT or information on COMINT activities, but unprotected by a codeword or special channel marking, must be referred to the National Security Agency for review and/or appropriate classification and control.
- c. Operational information concerning the acquisition and/or production of COMINT, or collaboration therein, by the US and its allies must remain classified.
- d. Pure collateral information transmitted solely for purposes of expediency via COMINT channels and marked "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY" may be downgraded or declassified if general guidelines so permit.
- e. The declassification or downgrading of any COMINT material must be coordinated with NSA prior to release.

2. I will explain that this simplification of Letter N0981 will be used only in the "systematic" review under which there is no proviso for excision or sanitization of classified information.

SIGNED



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